

Policy 311

APPENDIX B – BRING YOUR OWN DEVICES (BYOD) PROGRAM AND PERSONAL DEVICES



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Department) believes it is important to continue to invest in technology infrastructure, which includes having Microsoft 365 for all school personnel and students, and the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) learning strategy for students in grades 9 to 12.

High school students are expected to bring a personal electronic device to school every day to support their learning, as applicable. The Department recognizes that technology is a useful learning tool as part of a well-rounded education, including the development of skills and knowledge that will help students succeed beyond the school.

The Department also believes that a safe learning environment includes protecting the personal information and personal health information of both students and school personnel. Schools and school districts must foster a culture of privacy awareness to enhance the responsibility and accountability of all school personnel and students with respect to the management of personal information.

Devices

The recommended devices to maximize the student experience with the approved educational platforms are either a laptop or a tablet with a keyboard. There are no specific recommended devices or brands, only the recommended device specifications described below. Schools and school districts will not limit the choice to a type or brand of device. All devices should meet the recommended device specifications to ensure learning is supported.

If the student is already assigned a school-supplied laptop or tablet (as assistive technology) for learning through a Personalized Learning Plan, this student does not need to bring an additional personal device.

Current device

If students already have access to a device that can be used in school, they will ensure that it meets the recommended device specifications for current devices. This applies to smart phones as well. (In cases where the device does not meet the recommended device specifications, the student can nonetheless bring it to school and test it. If it functions adequately, they may use it.)

New device

If the family is purchasing a new device, they will need to ensure that it meets the recommended device specifications for new devices. These specifications are required to ensure the device will be sufficient to last throughout high school.

Support and responsibility

This device will be a personal device owned by the student (and/or family); therefore, the school will not provide technical assistance should the device malfunction. Assistance will be provided where the device is not connecting to the internet, which is needed to access the learning platforms, or where a required application or program installed for an educational purpose is not working. The school will not be responsible if the device is lost, stolen or broken. It is recommended that parents ensure that the device has a current antivirus program installed, and secured with a strong password, two-factor authentication, location tracking and that other security features be activated where possible.

For schools

Devices will be a learning tool used in the classroom. It will be up to the individual teacher and class to decide how to use these devices and integrate them into daily learning.

Students will be given individual user identification to allow them to access the internet at school. This unique ID should not change throughout the year. Internet access in the school will have security settings (a firewall) restricting inappropriate, violent or adult content websites. Teachers will also be provided access to the internet through BYOD.

Approved educational platforms

The Department has identified a variety of [learning platforms](#) that can be used by school personnel and students. These platforms are available to all schools. Technical support will be provided. The main platform to be used by students and teachers is Microsoft 365 (Teams). D2L Brightspace may also be used.

Additional information

There may be situations where students do not have to provide their own devices, such as when they have already been issued assistive technology, when they have health-related circumstances that prevent their attendance at school, or when there is funding support from their community or another government department.

Recommended device specifications

Any new device acquired for a student starting in the 9th grade or later is expected to be functional for the duration of their time in high school. These minimum requirements are detailed on this page: [Device Specifications](#).